

NEWS

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Supervisors to Consider Contract to Redesign Summit Valley Road

SAN BERNARDINO - A popular alternative to the Cajon Pass will take its first step toward a major upgrade Tuesday when the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will consider a contract to design improvements for Summit Valley Road.

"Many High Desert residents use Summit Valley Road as an alternate route to Interstate 15 through the Cajon Pass, especially when the pass is blocked due to accidents or weather," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. "Widening it to four lanes will provide a much-improved alternate route when there are problems in the pass."

The Board will consider a \$1.23 million contract with Stantec Consulting to do the design work and conduct an environmental review, all of which is expected to take up to three years.

About six miles of the road will be realigned and widened from two lanes to four between Ranchero Road, at the southern end of Hesperia, and Highway 138 a few miles east of Interstate 15. The project will improve access to and from Apple Valley and Hesperia and will connect to Ranchero Road where several projects are planned, including widening the road, building a grade separation at the railroad tracks, and constructing an interchange at I-15. The improvements will also relieve congestion on offramps further north on I-15 and on arterials such as Main Street and Bear Valley Road.

Local residents are well aware of the road as a detour, and traffic levels jump whenever there are problems in the Cajon Pass, or when local traffic problems obstruct access to Interstate 15 in the Victor Valley.

A long, dirt stretch of Summit Valley Road was paved by the County and the City of Hesperia in September 2004 as an interim improvement.